

CLAIMS:

1. A method of verifying the authenticity of an image (1, 1', 1'') being rendered on a display screen (10) using a graphical representation of an authentication code (2, 2', 2'') associated with the image, said graphical representation also being rendered on the display screen, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 - producing an electronic representation of the image, and
 - deriving the authentication code from its graphical representation,
 - wherein both the step of producing an electronic representation of the image and the step of deriving the authentication code from its graphical representation involve the use of a scanner (20) having an array of photosensitive elements (21), which array can
10 be moved relative to the image.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the scanner (20) is a hand-held scanner.
- 15 3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the scanner (20) is a linear scanner.
4. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the step of producing an electronic representation of the image and the step of deriving the authentication code from
20 its graphical representation together involve a single scanning motion.
5. The method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the display screen (10) provides a scanning prompt after the image is changed.
- 25 6. The method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the image (1, 1', 1'') comprises alphanumeric characters.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the image (1, 1', 1'') comprises financial information.

8. The method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the graphical representation of the authentication code (2, 2', 2'') comprises guide marks (3) for guiding the scanner.

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9. The method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the step of producing an electronic representation of the image involves optical character recognition.

10. The method according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising the steps of:

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- calculating a further authentication code on the basis of the electronic representation of the image, and
- comparing the derived authentication code and the calculated further authentication code.

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11. A scanning device (20) for use in the method according to any of the preceding claims, the scanning device comprising:

- means (21, 22, 23) for producing an electronic representation of the image,
- means (23, 24) for deriving the authentication code from its graphical representation,
- 20 - means (23, 24) for calculating a further authentication code on the basis of the electronic representation of the image,
- means (23, 24) for comparing the derived authentication code and the calculated further authentication code, and
- means (29) for outputting a result of the comparison,
- 25 - wherein both the means for producing an electronic representation of the image and the means for deriving the authentication code from its graphical representation involve an array of photosensitive elements (21), which array can be moved relative to the image.

30 12. The scanning device according to claim 11, wherein the array of scanning elements (21) is a linear array.

13. The scanning device according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the photosensitive elements (21) are photosensitive diodes.

14. The scanning device according to claim 11, 12 or 13, which is a hand-held device.

5 15. The scanning device according to any of claims 11-14, wherein the photosensitive elements (21) are accommodated in an edge of a card-shaped substrate.

16. A system (9) for securely displaying images, the system comprising a display device (11) for rendering an image (1, 1', 1'') and a graphical representation of an associated authentication code (2, 2', 2''), and a scanning device (20) according to any of claims 11 - 15
10 for producing an electronic representation of the image and deriving the authentication code from its graphical representation.